

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2999
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0258

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: PEPR, AL, GR
SUBJECT: BALKAN GAMES

REF: ATHENS 6899

1. TO COFIRM REFTEL, ALBANIANS DID INDEED
FIELD AN ELEVEN PERSON TEAM IN 37TH BALKAN GAMES
TRACK AND FIELD COMPETITION HERE AUGUST 11-13. TEAM,
ACCOMPANIED BY FOUR TEAM LEADERS, ARRIVED BY BUS REPEAT BUS
JUST IN TIME FOR START OF GAMES. PRESENCE HERE WAS
VIRTUALLY NON-DISCERNABLE -- NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS,
NO APPEARANCES OFF THE FIELD, NO PRESS INTERVIEWS
PRESS RELEASES, OR INDICATION WHETHER ALBANIA WOULD PARTICIPATE
NEXT YEAR OR WAIT ANOTHER FOURTEEN. ONLY EXCEPTION TO
LOW PROFILE WAS A SIXTH PLACE IN POLE VAULT.

2. GREECE WON, BY THE WAY, THE GAMES FOR ONLY THE SECOND
TIME IN/49 YEAR HISTORY. ACHILLEAS KARAMANLIS,
PRIME MINISTER' S BROTHER, HEADED ATHENS DELEGATION
OF SPORTS OFFICIALS AND ENTHUSIASTS TO INAUGURATE GAMES.
PUBLIC ATTENDENCE WAS LESS THAN HOPED FOR, BUT GREEK
ATHLETES CREDITED LOCAL FAN ENTHUSIAAMS FOR UPSET VICTORY.
ZACHARY

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Message Attributes

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